

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

CITY GOVERNMENT FOR 1856.

THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

MONDAY, JAN. 7.—At noon to-day the members met and were sworn into office by Mayor Wood. All were present except Ald. Steers.

The counsel of Mr. Sengrist objected to Ald. Donke being sworn.

Ald. Barker opposed any interference until the Board was organized.

The Mayor acceded to this, and said he could not go behind the returns of the County Clerk.

Ald. Brown was then appointed Chairman, pro tem, for the purpose of organizing.

Ald. Barker was elected President on the first ballot. The vote stood: Ald. Barker, 13; Ald. J. W. Brown, 4; Ald. Varian, 4. Total votes, 21.

Aldermen W. Tucker and Clancy were appointed a Committee to conduct the President to the chair.

The President then addressed the Board as follows:

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN: I thank you very much for the honor which you have conferred upon me by electing me President of the Board for a second term. I am conscious of the responsibility which is imposed upon me by the position, and I feel that I shall endeavor to discharge it to the satisfaction of the Board, so far as I have an influence on them, with dispatch and impartiality.

Under the amended charters of this city, much embarrassment and difficulty have been experienced in the legislation of the Common Council. Experience has shown that the present mode of conducting Municipal Government does not meet the expectations of our citizens. Nevertheless, let it be our aim to make its working as economical and advantageous to the interests of the city as the system admits.

Gentlemen, as citizens of the commercial metropolis, we feel a just pride in her elevated position. As members of the first branch of the Common Council, we feel the importance of the trusts reposed in us. Let our efforts be united, not only as citizens but as members of her government, to do everything in our power that will add to her general prosperity. The Message of his Honor the Mayor and the Reports of the Board of Assessors will be presented to us, and it is our duty to give them a fair and careful consideration.

GENTLEMEN: In the discharge of my duty order and decorum shall be maintained and impartiality shall be observed, and I shall with pleasure receive your aid in the performance of that duty.

On motion of Ald. VOORHIS, the clerks were balloted for, and the following was the result: D. T. Valentine, Clerk of the Common Council, by a unanimous vote; Joseph B. Young, Deputy Clerk, by a vote of 12.

On this John H. Chambers received 10 votes. Reeves G. Selmes was appointed First Assistant and Alfred Cooper Second Assistant. Hart B. Weed was re-appointed Sergeant-at-Arms.

A protest against Ald. Drake taking his seat from Mr. Sengrist was referred to a Committee.

Ald. Clancy, Fulmer and Voorhis were appointed as a Committee to wait on the other Board and inform them that this branch was now organized. A Committee of Ald. Ely, Brown and Griffith were appointed to wait on the Mayor. On their return his Honor's Message was announced, and after being partly read, was ordered to be printed.

Nominations.—A communication was received from the Street Commissioner, nominating Charles Turner as Deputy Commissioner, and Joseph R. Taylor as Collector of Assessments.

On motion of Ald. VOORHIS, Mr. Turner was confirmed. Mr. Taylor's nomination was laid on the table.

A communication was received from Mr. Selah, Commissioner of Repairs and Supplies, making the following nominations for his Department: John O'Toole, as Clerk; J. G. Seix, as Assistant; James Irving, Supt. of Repairs to Public Buildings; Henry C. Woolsey, Supt. of Pavements; Alex. Ward, Supt. of Roads. These were, on motion of Ald. FULMER, laid on the table.

Ald. CHALCOTTE offered a resolution to inquire of the Council to the Corporation whether the Street Commissioner had the authority to remove the assistants in his Department. Laid on the table.

The Annual reports of the Croton Department, and the Counsel to the Corporation, were received and ordered to be printed.

The Board then adjourned to Thursday.

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF COUNCILMEN.

At 12 o'clock yesterday the Members of the newly elected Board of Councilmen appeared in their places in the Chamber of the Board, City Hall, and proceeded to take their oaths of office in accordance with the requirements of the Charter. Mayor Wood officiated in the administration of the oath.

R. S. Dixon, Councilman elect from the Twenty-fourth District of the Ninth Ward did not appear in his place on account of sickness.

When the Members had been sworn in Mr. COOPER of the Ninth Ward moved that Mr. Barney of the Fifth Ward be appointed temporary President.

Mr. BOOLEY of the Eleventh Ward moved to amend by substituting the name of Mr. Phillips of the Eighth Ward. The motion to amend was lost. The original motion of Mr. Cooper was then carried by a vote of 21 to 27.

The Clerk then appointed Messrs. Wagh and Raymond a Committee to conduct the temporary President to the chair.

On taking his seat, Mr. BARNEY briefly thanked the Board for the honor conferred upon him in selecting him as temporary President.

Mr. BARNEY moved that the Board go into the election for permanent President, which motion was carried.

Mr. VAN RIPER moved that thirty-one votes be required to elect, which was also carried.

The temporary President then appointed Messrs. H. Smith, Farrar and Van Riper tellers to receive the ballots.

The first and second ballots were pronounced to be informal, sixty votes being cast—one more than the number of members present.

Aldermen Voorhis, Fulmer and Clancy, a committee of the Board of Aldermen, here appeared in the Board and announced that the Board of Aldermen was organized, and were prepared to receive any communication from the Board of Councilmen.

On the third ballot for President the vote stood as follows: Benjamin F. Pinckney, 31; Orlando Gray, 28.

Mr. Pinckney was declared duly elected President of the Board.

Messrs. Crane and Raymond were appointed a committee to conduct the President elect to the chair.

On taking his seat, the President said:

GENTLEMEN OF THE BOARD OF COUNCILMEN: In accepting the honorable position to which your kindness has called me, I beg to express to you my sincere thanks for so great a mark of your confidence and esteem.

I am selected to preside over a body having charge of the interests of the first commercial city in America—a city destined, doubtless, to become the first in the world—the more popular of its legislative branches, and the one in which, under its charters, all bills requiring an expenditure of the public money must originate—I earnestly realize the great responsibility resting upon me as your presiding officer.

As we are, gentlemen, the representatives of various and widely-separated sections of the city—sections having, it may be supposed, diverse interests. Let us, at the threshold of our labors, divest ourselves of all sectional spirit or partisan feeling, and as the representatives of the citizens of this great metropolis, act upon our duties in a spirit of concord.

In the performance of those duties, differences of opinion will, as in all deliberative assemblies, necessarily arise.

Let me implore you, that in all these discussions you exhibit fairness and a desire only to protect and advance the interests of the great constituency which you represent; that you exercise a careful guard over language, that nothing may be uttered calculated to create animosity or mar the harmony which should ever exist among members of a legislative body, and as you have confidence in your own integrity, so confide in the integrity of each other.

In the discharge of the duties upon which I am about to enter, I shall need your generous assistance and support.

Governed by such rules as you in your wisdom may adopt, I shall expect and endeavor to enforce a strict compliance therewith, to the end that system may govern in all our action, expedition be insured, and dignity and decorum preserved.

And now, gentlemen, let me solicit you to enter upon your duties with zeal and energy, exercising such commendable judgment as to their discharge as to secure to yourselves the confidence and the approval of an enlightened constituency.

Mr. PHILLIPS moved that the Board go into the election of a Clerk.

Mr. SWAN moved to amend, so that the motion should read, that Charles F. McCluncheon be re-elected Clerk of the Board for the ensuing year, by acclamation. The amendment was accepted, and Mr. McCluncheon was re-elected by a unanimous vote.

On motion of Mr. PHILLIPS the Board proceeded to the election of a Sergeant-at-Arms.

Mr. GRAY moved that Nicholas M. Shidell be re-elected Sergeant-at-Arms by acclamation. The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Mr. GRAY then moved that the rules of order of the past Board of Councilmen be adopted by this Board, until otherwise ordered. The motion was adopted.

On motion the President was empowered to appoint committees to wait upon the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, and inform them that the Board was organized and ready to receive communications.

The President appointed as such committees Messrs. Swan, Gray, Avery, Taylor and Miller, and Messrs. Barney, H. Smith, Floy, B. Reilly and Cargill.

The committees then left the Chamber to discharge their duties.

John A. Towles was then elected Deputy Clerk unanimously by acclamation.

The Board, on motion, went into the election of Assistant Clerk by ballot.

Charles A. Holder having received a majority of the votes was declared re-elected.

On motion, John E. Green was re-elected Messenger of the Board by ballot.

Col. Ming, the Mayor's Clerk, then came into the Chamber with the Mayor's Message, which was received, and after being partly read was ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

The Board then went into ballot for Doorkeeper.

Four ballots were had without a result, when the Board adjourned to meet on Wednesday.

On the last ballot the vote stood as follows: James M. Hoyt, (K. N.), 20; James H. Farin, (Dem.), 23; Wm. H. Peabody, (present incumbent, K. N.) 14; W. Cobb, 5.

THE NEW BOARD.

It is composed of sixty members, of whom two are Whigs, thirty-two Know-Nothings and twenty-six Democrats.

Among the members are three Smiths, three Reillys and two Hoppers.

A COLLATION.

After the adjournment of the Board of Councilmen yesterday the Clerks of the Board, who had been re-elected to their several positions, invited the Members of the Board to partake of a collation which had been prepared at Delmonico's.

After the repast was duly partaken of, the hosts of the occasion, the President of the Board, the retiring Board, the Board of 1854, the present Board, Councilman Dixon (now confined to his house from injuries received at a fire), the Press, Ex-President Cooper, and different Members were severally thanked. Brief and appropriate speeches were made by President Pinckney, Mr. McCluncheon, Ex-Councilman Kennedy, Councilman Swan, Ex-Councilman Mason and Trustlow, Councilman Gray, Aldermen Harrow and Clancy, Councilmen Phillips, Watrous and others, after which the company rose.

THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE.

MAYOR'S OFFICE, NEW-YORK, JAN. 7, 1856.

Gentlemen of the Common Council:

I congratulate you upon the opening of another official year, amid the general good health and prosperity of the people over whose public welfare it is our duty to preside. Ours is an important trust; let us approach its fulfillment with a due sense of its magnitude and a firm determination to discharge it with fidelity and usefulness.

To make laws for and properly govern a city like this is a duty as responsible and onerous in its performance as it is high and honorable in character.

The extending area and the increasing population of New-York have already surpassed the ability of the law-making power to provide for their interests. Our property has been so rapid that local legislation has hitherto been unable to keep pace with its progress. The many and varied interests—the vast and complicated connections existing between ourselves and every other section of our own, as well as of most foreign countries—the peculiar character of the population, and the new resources which are continually developed, demand of us to exert every effort to make legislation as well as our progressive greatness. I fear, however, we do not realize even our present greatness, much less that so plainly indicated in the future as the mighty metropolis of a confederation numbering a hundred millions of American freemen.

The census and review of the municipal history of this city, it does not appear to me that the same energy and intelligent forethought, have been displayed in its public affairs, as have characterized our people in trade and commerce, science and education.

Spain, from a population of 60,000 in 1800, has become the third city in the world in 1855; and in all the emulating attributes of religion, private and public benevolence, educational advantages, commercial wealth and enterprise—to a position second to none; yet in its form of government, its laws, its regulations, its administration, its public affairs, its municipal administration to its public wants, it is to-day far inferior to a dozen other cities in the Union of half its population and importance. While we have progressed in the accumulation of the elements of prosperity, we have retrograded in the means of securing power and providing for the necessities of our condition.

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